

The South African Philatelist

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UNION NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

Recent Printings.

The Publicity Officer, Department of Posts and Telegrams, has kindly supplied the following information concerning the period 5th May, 1959, to the 6th August, 1959.

South West African Stamps.

- 2d.—Job No. 52768. On an order for 50,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a delivery of 16,072 sheets was made on the 5th May, 1959. Same Interior Cylinder No. 30.
- 3d.—Job No. 61245. On an order for 25,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a delivery of 16,000 sheets was made on the 12th May, 1959, the total delivery to the 14th May, 1959, being 24,480 sheets. Same Interior Cylinder No. 68.
- 4d.—Job No. 52769. On an order for 50,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a delivery of 8,440 sheets was made on the 5th May, 1959. Same Interior Cylinder No. 41.
- 1/.—Job Nos. 63724 and 52770. On an order for 10,000 sheets on the first Job No., and 8,000 sheets on the second, of 120 stamps per sheet, a total delivery of 13,755 sheets was made on the 9th June, 1959. New Interior Cylinder No. 17.

S.W.A. Postage Due.

- 1d.—Job No. 62227. On an order for 300 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total delivery of 400 sheets was made on the 12th May, 1959. New Interior Cylinder No. 74. New process blocks and over-

printed on a flat bed machine. These two conditions are stated to hold for the 2d. and 3d. values as well.

- 2d.—Job No. 62227. On an order for 500 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total delivery of 700 sheets was made on the 12th May, 1959.

- 3d.—Job No. 62227. On an order for 200 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, a total delivery of 272 sheets was made on the 12th May, 1959.

As we go to press, we are fortunate to be able to include further information, received from Mr. R. Jaacks, of Windhoek, concerning these new Postage Due Stamps.



The stamps are of the same type as D3 (Stanley Gibbons) but are smaller in size (17.2 x 21.2 mm.) than the previous issue, as may be seen in the accompanying illustration, and differ in the shade of the relevant colours.

Mr. Jaacks reports further that according to Stanley Gibbons, the first issue of Type 3 Postage Due stamps appeared on the 23rd February, 1931.

A second issue was made later, and when he compared the two mint issues, he found

that the shades of the two issues are different. The colour of the first $\frac{1}{2}$ d., for example, is black and green, while that of the later issue is black and yellow-green. Also, the colour of the first 3d. is black and blue as compared with black and dark blue of the later issue. Similarly, the shades vary for the other denominations.

Information Required, Please.

Mr. A. Leslie Leon, of Durban, writes that he has recently acquired six Colour Trials of the First Postage Due Issue of the Union of South Africa. These items are imperforate, on paper watermarked Springbok's Head, and the frames are in the same colour referred to on page 244 of the Union Handbook. The numeral, 3d., however, is in green in three cases, and in the other three in blue.

Mr. Leon enquires if anything is known of these Colour Trials, and also are there any readers who may be in possession of such a set? He will be grateful for any information through these columns.

"Ghost Watermark."

Referring to our May, 1959, Notes, Mr. W. Tunstall, of Nairobi, writes that he remembers a "Ghost Watermark" characteristic occurring also in the stamps of Great Britain in 1913 or 1914.

It was then suggested that this characteristic happened when the paper was calendered or plate glazed to obtain a good printing surface, in that two sheets of paper having been placed together and subjected to high pressure, the watermark in one sheet might have been transferred to the other.

This is indeed a very interesting suggestion.

Incidentally, Mr. Tunstall reports that their King George stamps are being demotivated at the end of the year.

Handley Page Covers.

Referring to our June Notes on the Handley Page Covers, Mr. Cyril Harmer, of Messrs. H. R. Harmer, Ltd., London, writes to say that the information in connection with covers Nos. 16 and 17, which they sold in recent years, is correct and also that they have handled several more of these covers, probably up to half a dozen, in the past 30 years or more.

In order to determine if any further items may be added to Mr. A. J. Brown's list, Mr. Harmer has kindly undertaken to

check up on the Fitzgerald Collection in the British Museum, and the Pen Gaskell Collection in the South Kensington Museum, collections he feels are almost certain to contain these covers.

He also suggests that there may be up to two or three more in collections in Great Britain about which he will try to get such further information.

We are indebted to Mr. Harmer for the interest he has shown in enumerating these covers, and further, it is comforting to know that there has not been a large number sold.

The King's Head 2d. Dark Plum Variety.

Further to our August Notes, Mr. J. H. Self, of Pretoria, reports that he obtained, in 1955/56, a 2d. item, reputed to be of the Dark Plum variety. The stamp has not been expertised, and he knows nothing of its ancestry.

Mr. E. Lander, of Glasgow, also possesses an unused copy of this stamp, which bears a B.P.A. certificate, No. 36292, stating that it is an abnormal deep dark plum shade, and that the stamp is "otherwise normal."

Two reputed copies, in different shades, of the 2d. Dark Plum stamp are in the collection of Mr. A. O. Braby, of Durban, who states that these two stamps contrast with all the other shades of the 2d. values he has seen, and match up to the slate-purple of the G.B., K.G. VII, 11d. value. They have not been expertised.

The Triangular W.T.M. Cancellation.

Referring to our September Notes, Mr. J. B. Levy, of Bloemfontein, has shown us a cover which he has had in his possession for the past 25 years, bearing the triangular W.T.M. cancellation over an affixed $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp.

The cover carries a sticker bearing a Westminster, O.F.S., address, thereby determining the "W" as "Westminster," but the "T.M." are still undefined.

Union Coat-of-Arms Watermarked Paper.

In our March, 1959, number, details were given of the Union Tender Board's tender for the supply of three million yards of postage stamp printing paper bearing the Union Coat-of-Arms as a watermark, and it was concluded that the watermark would be the larger of the two designs specified.

Many speculations have since been made as to the probable date on which this newly watermarked paper would be brought into

use. These have all been wrong, for without any previous intimation, a printing, upon the Union Coat-of-Arms watermarked paper, of the 3d. Animal Series, from the old cylinders, Interior No. 16 and Exterior No. 107, made its appearance at all Post Offices during the last week of September, 1959, much to the amazement of all Union collectors.

Their amazement was, however, greater upon viewing the stamps, for firstly, contrary to expectation the smaller design of the watermark had been used, and secondly, its impression was disappointingly indistinct, notwithstanding the fact that Clause III of the Tender Form clearly stated that "the watermark which shall be clearly visible shall be of the Staggered Springbok" This watermark was later amended to read "Union Coat-of-Arms," but no latitude was granted, to our knowledge, in order that the new watermark should be indistinct, blurred, and almost undecipherable. For all practical purposes which a watermark is supposed to serve, and certainly from a philatelic point of view, this watermark is of no consequence, and it probably would have been better if the paper had not been watermarked. To say the least, the Union Coat-of-Arms watermark is a great disappointment to all collectors of the Stamps of the Union, and a most unfortunate piece of propaganda towards the popularisation of our stamps, both at home and abroad.

It is almost impossible to detect the watermark upon the stamp and various methods have been tried out to show it up for philatelic inspection but without success.

The usual method of immersion in benzine is of little avail, and incidentally readers should be warned that benzine has a solvent action upon the brown and blue dyes used for the printing, rendering the stamp anaemic. The most successful technique, thus far, (though poor at that) has been to view the margin of the sheet against a strong yellowish light, accompanied by much wishful thinking, when it may be concluded that the base of the watermark faces left with the stamp positioned so that the animal is in an upright position.

In other respects, the new paper conforms to the specification as regards gumming, colour (white) and opacity. It appears to be slightly thicker than that previously

used, non-curling, perforates cleanly, and the printing of the stamps, in a richer shade of brown and blue, is clear and distinct.

As we go to press, information has been received from Mr. Eric Walker, of Pretoria, that the 1d. and 4d. values have also been printed on Union Coat-of-Arms watermarked paper. Thus it would appear, that it is only a matter of time before this watermarked paper will be used generally.

CHAOS IN LAOS

NOTWITHSTANDING, HERE ARE SOME SPECIAL OFFERS of some of the most attractive stamps issued in recent years:

LAOS:

1953 BUDDHA Statues, cpl. mint (6) ..	32/6
1955 RAMAYANA Masked Dancers, cpl. mint (6) ..	17/6
1957 Musicians, cpl. mint (6) ..	13/6
1957 Rice Cultivation, cpl. mint (4) ..	10/6
1957 Buddhist Commemo., cpl. mint (4) ..	13/6
1958 Red Cross, Mother nursing baby cpl. mint (4) ..	12/6
1958 Elephants of State, cpl. mint (7) ..	7/6

VIETNAM:

1958 UNESCO issue, cpl. mint (4) ..	5/6
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CAMEROONS:

1956 Fides, cpl. mint (4) ..	3/6
1956/58 Coffee, Bananas, etc, mint ..	4/9

FRENCH ANTARCTICA:

1956 Penguins, Walrus, etc., cpl. mint	15/6
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GUINEA REPUBLIC:

1958 2 Scarce Provisionals, mint ..	12/6
1958/59 Ships, Elephants, mint (8) ..	5/-
1959 Fruits (6), mint ..	6/9

FRENCH COLONIES:

1958 Flowers (9), mint ..	17/6
1959 Flowers (9), mint ..	12/6

MADAGASCAR:

1959 Proclamation of Republic (3) m.	3/6
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RHODESIAN FEDERATION:

Q.E. 1/3 to 10/-, used (5) ..	18/6
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CHINA:

1950/53 Doves of Peace (9), t.c.o. ..	2/6
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ANGOLA:

1959 SUCCULENTS (4) mint ..	7/6
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ITALIAN SOMALIA:

Birds (6) cpl. mint ..	7/6
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DOCUMENTS — LITERATURE

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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

The Postmaster-General announces that a specially designed 3d. postage stamp will be issued on the 16th November, 1959, to commemorate the South African National Antarctic Expedition which leaves Cape Town on 28th November, 1959.



The main theme of the design is a globe tilted at such an angle as to show South Africa in outline and the South Polar regions. A dotted line, stretching from Cape Town to the area concerned, indicates the approximate route to the locality of the base. The letters "SANAE" in the lower portion of the design stand for "South African National Antarctic Expedition." The size of the stamp will be 24.2 mm. x 40.5 mm. A specially designed datestamp will be used at the base.

Commemorative Covers.

Persons who desire to obtain postmarks of the datestamp on commemorative covers, should send their addressed and stamped envelopes to THE POSTMASTER (PHILATELIC S.A.N.A.E.), G.P.O., CAPE TOWN. Such envelopes must reach him not later than 25th November, 1959.

ANTARCTIC NOTES

Tourist Trips. In our October, 1958, issue mention was made of Argentina running a tourist trip to the Antarctic. A second similar trip was made in Jan.-Feb., 1959, and covers have again come back with postmarks of the various stations called at.

Chile followed suit in February, 1959, covers receiving a special postmark, featuring in the centre penguins watching the ship in a harbour; but there are no other marks of the ports of call.

I.G.Y. Stations taken over. Mention has already been made of the taking over of the "Wilkes" U.S.A. station by Australia as an additional station on the continent, she already having "Mawson" and "Davis."

Now comes the information of Argentina taking over the U.S.A. station "Ellsworth," at the head of the Weddell Sea, not very far from "Shackleton" where the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic crossing started. They have provided a special postmark reading "Est. Cientif. Ellsworth" i.e. Ellsworth Scientific Station.

Another take over in the Weddell Sea area is the Halley Bay station which was operated by the British Royal Society's party during the I.G.Y. year. This is now being run by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey as their Base Z; this station is situated about 200 miles N.E. of Shackleton.

Lastly comes the information of most interest to us in South Africa, viz., that the Union is taking over as a Meteorological Station the Norwegian post in Queen Maud Land. It has been announced that the O/C of the South African party will be Mr. J. J. La Grange, who was meteorologist with the Trans-Antarctic Crossing party, which would appear to be a very fitting choice.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TRIANGULARS.

RECTANGULARS. POSTMARKS.

Extensive selections of the above are always available, as well as interesting covers and Postal History material.

References from new customers please.

F. W. COLLINS

STOBOROUGH CROFT,
WINCHESTER, ENGLAND.

UNIPEX NEWS

Support for the great show is growing steadily, and coming from everywhere. The office of the United Nations has sent a description of its official exhibit which promises to be most informative. The final entries from the U.S.A. include a display of Cardinal Spellman's world-famous collection (obviously, not all his stamps were stolen!), and the equally famous "Pinedos" of Mrs. Louise Hoffman's air stamps collection. The Grand Prix has been donated anonymously, and among recent donations in cash there are 20 Guineas each from the Rhodesia and East London Societies, and the total proceeds of a special auction held by the East Rand Society (with a suggestion that all societies should organise one club evening and UNIPEX auction). The donation booklet drive is still going strong. Closing date for returns of counterfoils and monies has now been fixed for 1st December, and the draw will take place at the December meeting of the Johannesburg Society, on 8th December.

Good news also comes from the Publication Committee: the third issue of the Handbook-Catalogue of the stamps of the Union will be ready for sale on the opening day of UNIPEX—and it will be a completely revised edition, not only containing all new

issues before UNIPEX, but also incorporating all new knowledge. It will not be a "third part" of the handbook but a completely new edition, and contain many more illustrations. And it will not cost more than its predecessors!

As for the commemorative stamps for UNIPEX, however, there is no news as yet. Despite newspaper reports on their designs (portraits of all six Prime Ministers of the Union have been mentioned) and the publication of an emblem for the Festival Committee (this prize-winning entry is very reminiscent of last year's Swiss "Europe" stamp), we have it from the office of the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs that no decision has as yet been made on the designs, and not even the sizes of the three stamps have been laid down.

The UNIPEX Committee is less hesitant: the third issue of UNIPEX labels is out—this time in sets of miniature sheets in seven different colour combinations, including gold. Only one hundred sheets have been thus printed, numbered from 1 to 100, and all sets are imperforate. The price, per set, is £1, and orders, to the Secretary, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg, will be dealt with in strict rotation.



REVIEWS

Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Part III, America, Asia and Africa. Retail price 24/-.

This catalogue, of non-British Commonwealth countries in the three continents mentioned, makes its appearance two years after the previous edition. It has 96 pages more than before and many new countries make their first appearance in it. There are tremendous alterations in pricing, mainly upward. In several countries there has been considerable revision of listings, of both old and modern issues.

Commonwealth Catalogue of K.G. VI Stamps, Commonwealth Stamp Coy., 7 Leather Lane, Liverpool. Price 7/6d.

This catalogue appears two years after the previous edition, which has long been out of print. The K.G. VI market remains very active, and there has been extensive revision of prices, which, incidentally, are stated to reflect accurately those prevailing in the world market. A number of new var-

ieties which have come to light are included. There is an appendix giving Booklet Pages of Britain and Canada, also a full listing of Canadian Numeral Pre-cancels.

UNION 1D. MONOCOLOURED STAMP

The name of Dr. Gordon Ward is well-known to students of Union stamps, and not least in connection with 1d. Ship stamps. He now writes that he is taking up a study of the monocoloured stamps on Postcards. Although at first sight these might not seem to offer great opportunities, he finds that they promise quite a lot of pleasant occupation.

He is hampered, however, by the paucity of material obtainable and states he would be most grateful to anyone who could give, lend or sell him postcards or cut-outs, mint or used, with the impressed monocoloured 1d. ship stamp. Anyone who can oblige should communicate directly with him at 7 Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, England.

THE 1½D LARGE GOLD MINE STAMP

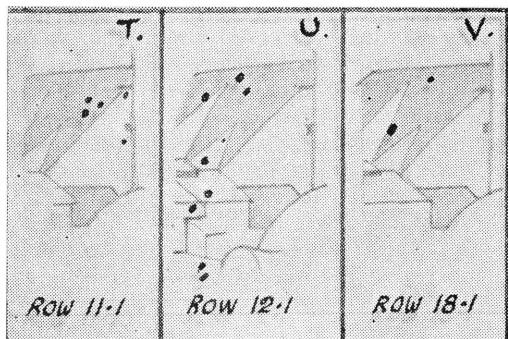
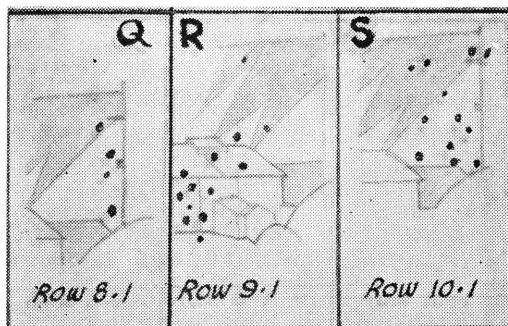
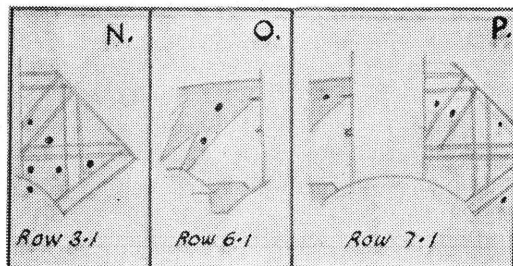
By R. J. Lawrence

(Continued from page 177 of October issue)

Pl. III. S.A.P. June '41. Job 11,187. 355,400 sheets 26th Nov.—30th Jan. '41. Cyls. 6930/66 (since corrected to 6930/15).

S.A.P. Sept. '41. Job 13910. 368,700 sheets 27th Feb.—29th April '41. Cyls. 6930/15.

Calculations indicate that IIIa and IIIb together (with fair uniformity of vignette shades) are about equal in numbers to IIIc (a decidedly different vignette). Therefore it is not unreasonable to allocate the former to Job 11,187 and IIIc to Job 13,910 whereas H/Cat., by valuation, would have the latter as the scarcer.



'SPATTER' FLAWS OF THE FIRST VERTICAL ROW - CYL. 15

Pl. IIIa. Isolated specimens in Dec. '40, mostly Jan. and Feb. '40. Not a common stamp. Probably H/C. 46Ba although, by acquired flaws, 46B is now known to follow this printing. The vignette has quite an "ochrish" tinge; "glitter" still much as IIC. Frame shade is given as greenish-slate—or should it be slate-green?—difficult to say—certainly amidst the other shades it stands out markedly green but **not** "brittle" green of early Pl. I printings listed as slate-green.

Pl. IIIb. Dates early Feb. '41 onwards. The frames vary from pale to quite a deep bluish-slate. Vignettes retain their deep or brown-buff tones throughout; "glitter" still apparent with one "browny" printing showing almost a metallic sheen. About thrice as common as IIIa and particularly important for the initial appearance of a goodly Pl. III variety—"Undulating line through several stamps in Row 4"—See sketch "X".

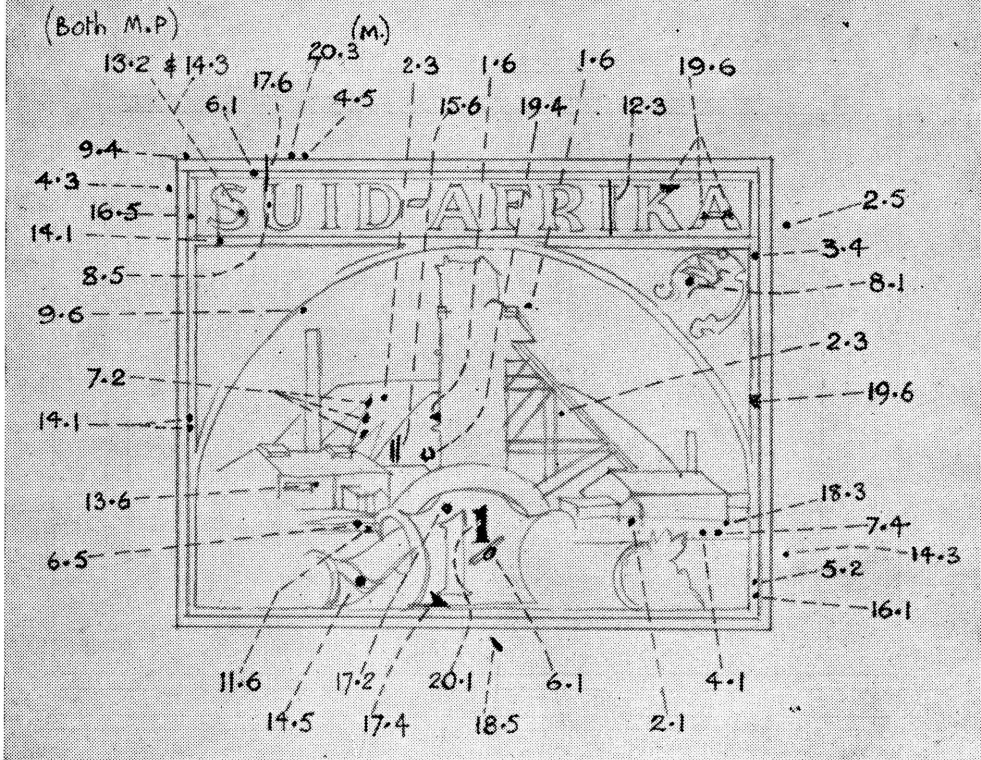
Pl. IIIc. The most common stamp of Pl.'s II and III and only to be confused with those from Booklets. The centres are flat and distinctly more yellow; "glitter," as stated before, now becomes almost non-existent. Frame shade more akin to deep slate than anything else—quite a proportion give the impression of cylinder wear but this appearance can have other explanations. The "undulating line" variety is firmly established and a number of other random scratches (not doctor blade) constantly appear to confirm this as the final issue.

One other disagreement with H/Cat.—the variety listed as 46B Vb. At least ten examples of Row 20 x 4, three from Pl. II and the remainder Pl. III, have been thoroughly examined—not one revealed the slightest sign of a "Broken serrated edge," so it would seem the variety is inconstant.

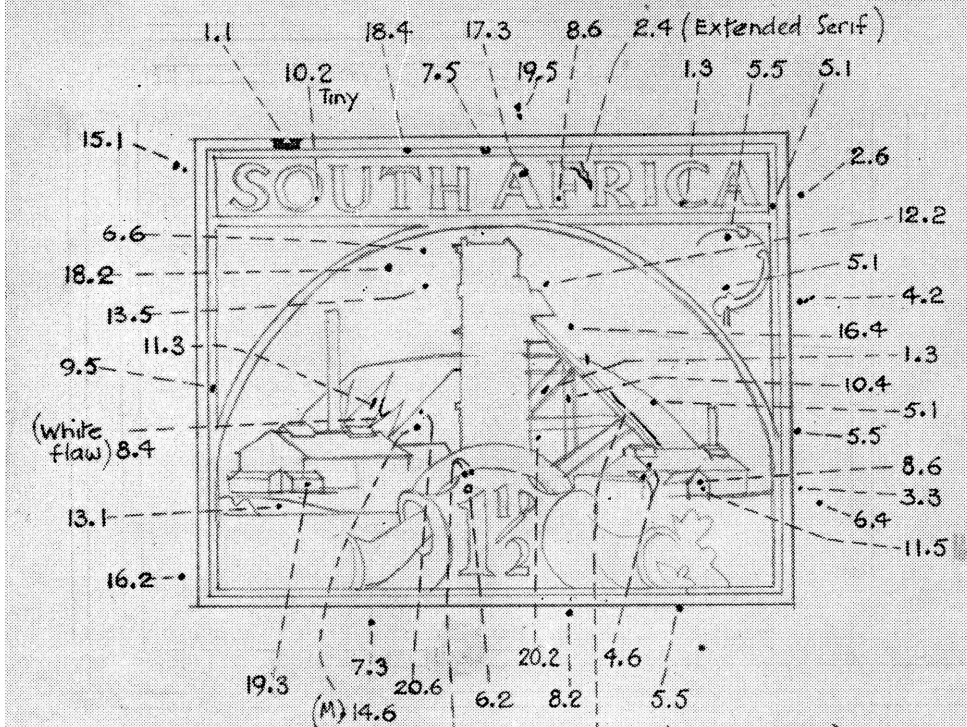
Finally, the one and only vignette flaw of distinction, Int. Cyl. 62, "White spot in building on left," Row 20.3—Sketch "W"—actually a break in the long window, information of which was supplied by Mr. S. J. Hagger. This brings forth another plea: Pl. IIIa still lacks conclusive evidence of its interior cylinder origin, it is almost certain but!! Row 20, stamp 3 has a multipositive flaw "Dot on top frame line above 'U' of SUID" (see large diagram); any possessor of this stamp (arrow block?) in the correct shade can remove the last lingering doubt by stating whether or not it has the vignette flaw just mentioned . . . any offers?

(Sketches "X" and "Y" not yet shown.—Ed.)

MINOR POSITIONING FLAWS OF EXT. CYL 15 - AFRIKAANS STAMPS



MINOR POSITIONING FLAWS OF EXT. CYL. 15 - ENGLISH STAMPS.



PORTRAIT GALLERY

XIV

All but three of the 15 newcomers this time belong to two groups of six each, the one of French notabilities, which brings France's total number of portraits to 237—the largest number for any country, and the other of early Christian martyrs, shown on Vatican stamps. The other three are portraits of Marceline Desbordes-Valmore the poetess, to mark the centenary of her death, one more superb example of the engraving genius of Pierre Gandon, A. C. Anwandter, Founder of the German School, Valdivia, Chile, and Cayetano Arellano, the handsome, dignified Chief Justice of the Republic of the Philippines.

The six Frenchmen cover a period of some 700 years, and all are of great interest.

(1) Geoffroi de Villehardouin, born 1150, died 1212 or 1213 (authorities differ), cuts a heroic figure on the stamp between Crusaders' pikes and standards and a gallant fleet, the whole appropriately printed in ultramarine, for this French nobleman served in the 4th Crusade under Count Thibaut III of Champagne. "The pen is mightier than the sword," we are told, but here was one who could use both to great effect, for one of the sprightliest accounts of this Crusade is his "Chronicles," and in particular the one he entitled "La Conquête de Constantinople." One warms to this paladin with the steady seaman's gaze, the determined chin, but the hint of kindly humour in the mouth.

(2) André le Nôtre, 1613-1700, is here, a cavalier figure with magnificent locks (are they his own?). In the background there are entrancing vistas of stately terraces, formal gardens and clever topiary, for he was a landscape architect, who, to quote Mr. James Watson, "was appointed Director of the Royal Gardens by Louis XIV of France, and designed, wholly or in part, many famous gardens, including those of Versailles, Chantilly and Fontainebleau. His fame spread to other countries and he was commissioned as a consultant in the planning of Kensington Gardens and St. James's Park in London, and the garden of the Quirinal and the Vatican in Rome."

(3) Pierre Jean David d'Angers, 1788-1856, (Angers was his birthplace, not his patronymic) learned painting from his namesake Jacques David, but became famous chiefly for his sculptures, among which were

statues, busts and medallions of Condé, Jean Bart, Chateaubriand, Victor Hugo, Bonaparte, Ney and Mme Récamier, all of whom figure on French stamps.

(4) Marie Francois Xavier Bichat, 177- to 1802, pupil and then assistant of the great surgeon and anatomist Desault, whose monumental "Journal of Surgery" he completed. He became the most eminent anatomist of his day, with a gift for lucid exposition in his lectures and writings. Napoleon appointed him Physician to the Hôtel-Dieu, Paris.

(5) Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, 1834-1904, the famous sculptor, two of whose outstanding productions, the colossal bronze "Lion of Belfort" and the even more impressive "Statue of Liberty" in New York Harbour are seen in the background of the stamp.



(6) But the most interesting of the group is Jean le Rond d'Alembert, 1717-1783. (Illustration herewith). A founding, discovered near the Church of S. Jean le Rond, Paris, he was actually the illegitimate son of the Chevalier Destouches and the writer Claudine Guérin de Tencin. Secretly aided by his father, he studied both law and medicine, but his **penchant** proved too strong, and he became one of the greatest mathematicians of his time, his researches into the properties of moving fluids, the precession of the equinoxes, the dynamics of the compound pendulum &c. establishing his fame. He numbered among his best friends Voltaire and Mlle de Lespinasse, who returned his friendship but not his love.

Little room is left for mention of the six Christian martyrs, who all perished in the persecution under the Emperor Valerian in the third century. They are Saints Agapitus, Felicissimus, Fructuosus, Lawrence and Cyprian and the Pope Sixtus II. The portraits, from old medallions and paintings,

are quaint, but we pay due tribute to those who preferred death, often in horrible forms, to disloyalty. The most noteworthy is Cyprian, whose portrait is illustrated. Born about the year 200 of a wealthy family at Carthage he devoted his wealth after conversion to the relief of the poor. An ardent theologian and a capable bishop, in the persecution under Valerian he was banished in August 257, but recalled and beheaded the following year.

W. LOXLEY CHAMINGS.

BASUTOLAND 2D. STAMP OVERPRINTED $\frac{1}{2}$ D.

Mr. G. N. Gilbert, of Westminster, supplies the following information about the Basutoland 2d. Stamp overprinted $\frac{1}{2}$ d., illustrated hereunder.



Owing to the general postage rates being raised on April 1st, 1959, that on circulars went up from 1d. to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

There being no 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. definitive stamp, and as thousands of circulars are sent monthly overseas, mainly by the Roman Catholic Missions a shortage of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps occurred.

This coincided with the printing strike in England, and fresh stocks could not be obtained in time, so approximately 6,000 sheets of the 2d. were overprinted " $\frac{1}{2}$ d." in Pretoria.

The first delivery to Maseru was on August 15th, 1959.

This overprint appears on two plates of the 2d., viz. 1A 1A and 1B 1B and from certain overprint flaws it would seem that there were two printings of the overprint.

For instance, on some sheets of both 1A 1A and 1B 1B, there is a constant broken "d" on Row 4 No. 1, and in all sheets on which this flaw is found, there is also a dot in the middle of the "d" on Row 7 No. 6.

On the other sheets from both plates, both these flaws are absent. There are numerous partially broken letters, numbers, short fraction bars, sloping 2, etc., but these do not follow the same pattern as that shown by the two flaws mentioned above.

It is also reported that a large number of sheets were destroyed owing to faulty overprints.

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ANOTHER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN RHODESIA

By Jack Creewel

(President, Mashonaland Philatelic Society)

Although there are known to exist in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland five Philatelic Societies, the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia in Bulawayo, the Mashonaland Philatelic Society in Salisbury, the Midlands Stamp Club in Gwelo, the Copperbelt Philatelic Society in Kitwe and the Ndola Stamp Club in Ndola, except in the case of the Copperbelt Society and the Ndola Stamp Club, which are comparatively close together, the vastness of Rhodesia has precluded any possibility of an interchange of visits between societies such as is customary in the Union of South Africa.

However, early in 1956, the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia suggested that they pay an official visit to the Midlands Stamp Club in Gwelo. This resulted in a most enjoyable and entertaining day's outing for Bulawayo Philatelists which was later reciprocated when the Midlands enthusiasts visited Bulawayo. In keeping with the general trend of progress this developed, in 1957, into a joint meeting of the three Southern Rhodesian Societies. On a Sunday in June at Gwelo, being the most central point, there foregathered enthusiasts from Gwelo, Selukwe, Hartley, Salisbury and Bulawayo. A most enjoyable day was spent examining the various collections placed on view, a most enjoyable luncheon party, and a most successful auction.

In 1959 the small mining town of Selukwe, 23 miles from Gwelo, celebrated its Diamond Jubilee and as part of the festivities a Philatelic Exhibition, open to the public, was staged by the Midlands Stamp Club. This exhibition took place on September 12th and 13th and was officially opened by the Postmaster General of the Federation, Mr. W. Davidson. In the course of his opening address the Postmaster General announced the issue next year, the date still to be advised, of a special issue to commemorate the opening of the Kariba Hydro Electric Power Scheme. It was announced that this issue would comprise five values, a total face value of 10/6 and would be printed by the photogravure process by Messrs. De La Rue & Company and Harrison & Sons. This is the first occasion on which Federal Stamps, including those of

the independent territories of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, will be printed in this manner. Photographic reproductions of two essays which have been accepted were shown to those philatelists who were present.

The general theme of the display was "Africa South of the Sahara" and it is a matter of regret that there were no exhibits of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The main feature of the Exhibition was the display kindly provided by the Postmaster General, comprising proofs of the Southern Rhodesia King George V issues with blocks of four of the King George V 1931 issue overprinted specimen; King George VI issues in imprint blocks of four; colour trials of the 9d. value of the 1931 issue; proofs of the first Federal Definitive issue and the new Pictorial issue; and the original photographic plates of the 1943 Matabeleland Commemorative stamp.

The B.S.A. Company and Rhodesia up to 1924 was represented by two outstanding collections belonging to Capt. R. H. R. Stevenson of Selukwe and to Mr. R. E. Sinclair of Bulawayo. Capt. Stevenson's collection provided a wealth of information in the writing-up. From Mr. Sinclair's collection the outstanding item was a pair of ½d. Double Heads imperf all round.

Mr. A. E. Shepherd of Gwelo provided a very fine display of the stamps of Southern Rhodesia which was supported by some exceptional items from the collection of Southern Rhodesia Air Mails belonging to Mr. R. H. A. Farquharson of Umtali.

Territories adjacent to the Federation, Belgian Congo and Mozambique were shown by Mr. Leonard Birsén of Lalapanzi and Mr. J. E. Creewel of Salisbury. The Union of South Africa was displayed by Mrs. M. Wallace of Bulawayo and it was only a pity that space did not permit the full collection to be shown. This collection actually embraces most of the recognised varieties in the various Union stamp issues. Another outstanding display was that given by Mr. Frank Porter of Bulawayo whose name and stamps need no introduction to philatelists all over the territory. On this occasion Mr. Porter showed a selection of Cape Triangulars, all in perfect condition and beautifully postmarked.

No exhibition would be complete without the usual "Extras" and these were provided by Messrs. J. Lazarus and H. Rensburg of Bulawayo who showed War Tax stamps and

early United States issues respectively, and a collection of the Stamp Currency Cards of the B.S.A. Company was provided by Mr. Bott of Selukwe.

All exhibitors were present together with a number of other collectors from the three centres, and all of them, with wives, were entertained by the Midlands Stamp Club to a banquet on Saturday night which was followed by a most enjoyable dance. At the dinner two very enjoyable addresses were presented by the Postmaster General and by Mr. Styles, chairman of the Selukwe Town Management Board.

Although there was no official auction on this occasion, Sunday morning was spent examining several other collections which had been brought along by visiting members and it was observed that stock books and catalogues were well to the fore. In all corners of the two exhibition rooms a considerable amount of business was being transacted.

The Midlands Stamp Club deserves the heartiest of congratulations for their initiative as it was felt particularly that a finer collection of Rhodesian Stamps could not have been produced from anywhere within the territory.

As it had recently been established that the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia was founded in 1910 it was divulged that Bulawayo have plans for next year when they hope to sponsor a similar exhibition when it is hoped it will be possible for the two Northern Societies also to participate.

TANGANYIKA

For several months official correspondence from Tanganyika has been arriving in London with the current Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika stamps overprinted "OFFICIAL"—a somewhat curious situation, as such stamps are not being used by the Kenya and Uganda Governments.

Apparently the overprint was applied locally in Daressalaam. No British Colony has had "official" stamps since the Basutoland and Swaziland issues of 1934 were frowned on by the Colonial office—they do not like them because of the danger of leakages.

Will these Tanganyika "officials" suffer the same fate, we wonder, and become some of the rarest stamps of the present reign?

(Later information is that these stamps are being sold in mint condition to the public.—Ed.)

F.D.C.'s OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST STAMPS

Under this title there is published in "Stamps" an article by the late Stephen G. Rich, which he had prepared for the American First Day Cover Society shortly before his death in August, 1958. This deals with First Day covers with Union No. 1, the 2½d. of Nov. 4th 1910 and with covers of the King's Head issue of 1 Sept., 1913. As several recordings have been made in this magazine from 1955 onwards, actually in response to a letter from Mr. Rich in the May issue, it seems appropriate to summarise the situation as it is now.

2½d. Nov. 4, 1910. Rich records three F.D.C.'s as known in the U.S.A. but thinks probably others exist in the Union and in Britain.

We have had no actual records of F.D.C.'s sent to us but in the catalogue of Wick's Stamp Agency Sale of 15th Oct., 1959, there is listed a registered cover with a Johannesburg postmark of 4 NOV 10. This cover fetched 27/6 at the sale.

Several collectors have reported loose stamps with 4 NOV 10 cancellations, and in the catalogue mentioned just above there is one postmarked "House of Parliament 4 NOV 10." This of course is a very appropriate cancellation, seeing that the stamp was specially issued in honour of the day of opening of the first Union Parliament. This fetched 30/- at auction.

One contributor has shown us a pair of stamps with a cancellation dated 31 May 1910 and this is illustrated in our issue of October, 1957. We doubt very much if this can be accepted as genuine usage, as it would seem very unlikely that the stamps were issued to post offices so long before 4th November, which was unquestionably the date of the stamps going on sale to the public.

King's Head Stamps, Sept. 1, 1913. Rich states that no F.D.C.'s are known in the U.S.A., and not even any loose stamps with that date, although ½d. and 1d. stamps with date of 2nd September are fairly common.

Here at least three first day covers are known—see our issues of August, 1955, and April, 1956.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE GAZA STRIP AND THE SINAI CAMPAIGN

By I. A. Miller

Before dealing with the Postal aspect of this turbulent area, it is necessary first to give a geographic and historic description.

The Gaza area is a strip of land on the South Western part of Israel running along the Eastern Mediterranean to the extent of about 15 miles in length and six miles in width, being about 210 sq. miles, with a normal population of about 60,000. This number was increased to 350,000 by 290,000 refugees from Palestine in 1948 after the British evacuation and the Israeli War of Liberation.

The best known places in this area are Gaza, the capital, a port on the sea shore about 70 km. South West of Jaffa; Khan Younis, about 15 km. South West of Gaza, and Rafah, a village between Gaza and Khan Younis. One of the oldest towns mentioned in the Bible is Gaza which has been known as Azati. After the conquest of this town by Josuah, the Philistines annihilated the Avim, that had settled there and Gaza became one of the Philistine Cities. In Josuah's time, this area was allotted to the tribe of Judah, who could not seize the town because the inhabitants had "iron chariots." This was the town where Samson, blinded, brought down the Temple of Dagon killing himself and destroying the inhabitants.

King David and later King Hezekiah conquered the City which, in those days, lay on the trade and military route between Babylon and Syria on the one hand and Egypt on the other. It was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt in turn by its conquerors the Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians, but kept its independence until Alexander the Great destroyed the town, annihilated the population in 332 BCE and settled Greeks there, and Gaza then became the centre of Hellenic culture.

Antiochus the Great beat the Ptolemis. Jonathan, the Hasmonean, conquered Gaza which was later destroyed by Alexander Jannaeus in 96 BCE. Pompey rebuilt the city. Augustus presented it to Herod and after his death it was incorporated in the Roman Province of Syria, and destroyed by the Jews during the Roman War and later again became a prosperous Greek Colony which was Governed by a Senate of

500 men. At the time of Constantine the Great, it was still a centre of Heathendom and at the beginning of the Middle Ages, it was a commercial centre. The Arabs took Gaza in 634 and the Crusaders rebuilt and fortified it. Since then it grew into a prosperous commercial town of merchants. From the 14th to the 17th Centuries, there existed important Jewish Karaite and Samaritan Communities.

In the 17th Century, Gaza became the capital of the Arabic Province of Falastin, and as a result of the Bedouin and Fellach wars during the 18th Century, again sank to the status of an unimportant city. Napoleon occupied it in the course of his march to Acre in 1799. Due to the commercial caravans of the Bedouins traversing this area from the East to Egypt, it again rose in stature. During the First World War, Gaza was besieged for 11 months by the British Army until the Turkish front collapsed on the 2nd November, 1917. With the evacuation of Palestine by the British, the Egyptian Army occupied Gaza on the 15th May, 1948. It was retaken by the Israeli Army on the 2nd November, 1956, and re-occupied by Egypt under the "supervision" of the United Nations Emergency Forces on the 5th March, 1957.

* * * *

Postal communications were first established by the Turks.

According to the records of the Post and Telegraphic Departments at Ankara, the Gaza Post Office, was opened on the 1st May, 1865, under the control of one Mustafa Effendi at a monthly salary of Twelve Turkish Pounds. No information is available regarding the Postal Services at this time but it is believed that the office at Gaza at first served as a Telegraphic Office and at a later date served as a general Post Office. Among a recently acquired lot of used Turkish Stamps one stamp of the 1870/72 emission was found with a double box post mark containing the name "Gaza" in heavy Arabic letters. No other box post mark of Gaza has been found so far.

It is presumed that the Turkish Administration did not close any Post Offices due to the fast advances by Allenby's forces, commonly known as the E.E.F. which cap-

tured Gaza on the 7th November, 1917. Various post marks were used with the inscription in Turkish and French. These post marks were either of a double ring with the date in the centre or a double ring with horizontal lines in the centre, the date between the lines, the Turkish inscription in the upper half of the circle and the French in the lower half. The latter post mark is also known with the outer circle missing between the horizontal lines.

During the 1914-1918 War a special set of four stamps for use by the Turkish Army was typographed in four distinct colours, one for each denomination. These stamps were to be used in the conquered territories of Egypt and Suez, but when defeat and capture were inevitable the stamps were destroyed and only a few are now available. The design consists of the Turkish flag in red, crossed with that of Egypt, the one flag bearing the inscription "Holy War" and the inscription "conquered territories postage stamp of the Moslem Army to liberate Egypt" on the other. On the instructions of the Ministers of War and State these stamps were secretly produced in order to prevent a leakage that Turkey was sending an occupation force to Egypt, consequently only a limited number of officers were aware of their existence.

There also exists a Turkish set of stamps for use in conquered Egypt and intended to commemorate the planned occupation of the Sinai Peninsula. This set was printed in 1917 but finally appeared in Turkey with an overprint in 1920.

During the siege of Gaza, by the British forces, there was a shortage of 5 Para stamps and General Refet Pasha sanctioned an order by the officer commanding the 3rd Turkish Infantry Division in March, 1917, to overprint the 10 Para of the 1916 Jubilee Set with the figure 5, rubber-stamped in European and Turkish figures, the Turkish one being exactly above the European. Almost all of these were used on postal orders and very few on letters and parcel post.

During the fighting, the Gaza obliterator was lost and never found. The various Gaza Emergency issues have not been listed in catalogues due to ignorance or false reports, although these were undoubtedly used as emergency postage.

In 1838 Gaza was a relay station of the official Egyptian courier route from Cairo-Gaza-Jaffa-Damascus, and operated until

1840. For this period no information is available until the opening of the Post office in 1882. With the conquest of the Turkish Army and occupation of the area by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force on the 7th November, 1917, the Turkish Postal Administration ceased to exist.

The British Postal Administration opened two Post Offices in the Gaza district. A Military Post Office existed at Rafah for a few months in 1920. Before the Civilian Administration took over from the Army on the 1st July, 1920, a Gaza town cancellation 29 mm. in diameter was used with the letters O.E.T.A. E.E.F. (Occupied Enemy Territory Administration—Egyptian Expeditionary Force). The date was printed in one line and the earliest known date of this canceller was the 5th June, 1919. It is not known whether a similar post mark was used in Khan Younis. The Gaza Military Post Office used the identifying No. "SZ27" until 1919.

In 1919 the Jewish Battalion with the British forces, had their head quarters at El Arish where they had their own Post Office, conducted from a tent.

(To be continued).

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THE REVENUE STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Paper read before the Pretoria Philatelic Society)

By **L. J. Dodd.**

I was a little worried last month when our President asked me if the paper and Exhibition I was on the list to give tonight, would entertain members for 1½ hours. Well, being rather keen on the subject of my show, REVENUES of the UNION, I could only answer YES. However the real point is will I be able to hold your interest for that time.

Personally I have had a great deal of pleasure in this sideline of Philately and I can assure you that at least one of the objectives of most collections—I refer to completeness—is not easy to attain. The difficulty however helps to keep up the interest and adds to the fun.

A point which adds to the difficulty of attaining completeness is that since 1931 when the Government Printing Works took over the job of printing the revenues, the year of issue was added to the vignette just below the King's head. To take the value most commonly used in revenues, the 1/-, I know of 31 different stamps spread over the seven Series issued by the Union. This covers a period of 45 years of which the first Series printed by De La Rue in London were used for 18 years.

To note one of the advantages of collecting Revenues, I must tell you that you do not have to dip very deeply into your pocket, always provided you do not insist on collecting Mint only. A few £25, £50 or £100 stamps straight from the Receiver for Revenue would soon upset any budget.

Before getting down to the revenue stamps proper, it is necessary to take a look at the stamps authorised for use immediately after Union, pending the issue of the first definitives on September 1st, 1913.

With cancellations as the only guide the following sections of Interprovincials are very collectable:—

- (a) PRE-Interprovincials. Dated from 31st May to 17th August, 1910. Each Colony was authorised to use the stamps in current use at the time of Union.
- (b) Interprovincials. Cancelled from 17th August 1910 to 31st August 1913. Govt. Notice 349 says Inter Alia . . . revenue stamps in authorised use on 30th May

1910, in the four Colonies are recognised as available throughout the Union . . . ”

- (c) POST-Interprovincials. Cancelled after 1st September 1913 used alone or in conjunction with stamps of the first issue. A final decree demonetised the Colonial stamps on 1st of January 1938.

The stamps falling under the three categories are practically all the large size revenues with the head of King Edward VII, the only exceptions I have seen are the 7/6, £5, and £20 of the Cape and these are the Hope Standing type.

Revenue Interprovincials are now becoming quite scarce. I think this is mainly because we have not had until recently anything in the way of a catalogue or even a priced check list. With no monetary value being allotted to revenues anywhere, human nature also being what it is, much material has already been destroyed.

If I were asked which stamp I considered the most valuable of the Interprovincials I think I would decide on the £20 stamp of the Cape, used in Natal or O.F.S. I show you tonight the item but used in Transvaal. The question of allotting a value to Interprovincials is a very difficult one. I am quite sure the chance of finding a ½d. King Edward Cape stamp, or even the common 1d. of the same set used in the correct period in either of the other three Colonies is far more remote than the £20 of which I spoke above. This I think is because the majority of the older revenues come from title deeds and it is rare to find low value stamps on these.

A certain Mr. Farrow of Johannesburg writing to a dealer in 1935 of the £20 Cape stamp says, I have only seen one copy on a document, which to my regret I was not able to get to add to my collection. This passage in the letter, remember, refers to a stamp issued in 1898, or 37 years previous to his writing, so it is a fair inference that not many copies were put on sale. It is only right to add that this gentleman also said in the same letter, that the £10 and £25 values of the Transvaal revenue stamps were very rare, and also noted that it had been reported to him that only four sheets

of 100 stamps of the £10 and one sheet of £25 had been issued. I cannot help thinking that he was mis-informed because I have five copies of the £10 value and have three copies of the £25, one of them in mint condition.

Before leaving these stamps I would like to call attention to one piece amongst the POST-Interprovincials. It is used in Natal and has the Official revenue cancellation of that Colony, with the date 28th August 1913, it includes a copy of the £1 stamp of the first definitive Series thus antedating the official first day of issue by four days. A nice item for one's collection.

A certain amount of confusion is introduced on the stamps which were used in Natal. The large square Revenue cancellation has an oval panel in the centre for the date. The figures denoting the day of the month, which latter is indicated by three letters, sometimes precedes the month and sometimes is put after the month, in the dates which are in two lines within the oval.

We can now pass on to the first definitive revenues, called for ease of recording Series I. A set of large stamps printed by Messrs. Thos. de la Rue of London, who as most of us remember were also the printers of the first set of postage stamps of the Union. The vignette is the same McKennal head of King George V, indeed so similar is it to the head used on the postage stamps that a London dealer offered a Die proof to Dr. Berry as being that of the postage stamps. The lettering is in the two languages the second being Nederlands, Perforation 14, Watermark single Springbok's head; 14 values were printed, 3d. to £25. After a few years three values had their colours changed. They were 1/-, £1, and £2. I think that as the 1/-, being a stamp with a big demand, it was decided to make it a monocoloured stamp and thus, could be printed by a single working plate, the two pound values I am sure were altered because of similarity of colours, the £1 to the 3/- and the £2 to the £25 stamps. It is a wonderful credit to the operatives and checking staffs of the firm of printers to record that although I have examined some thousands of copies of this issue I have only seen two stamps with inverted watermark. The only constant variety seen is the 5/- with a break in the left frame line. A number of 5/- stamps have been seen with a double frame line on the left, this could

be a worn line which has not inked properly. Faulty numerals of value on the 2/- and £1 are most probably caused by inking troubles but it has not been noted on any other values. In the £1 red and green a few copies have been seen with the symbol and one of £1 thinner and finer than the normal. I do not understand this.

To round off this first Series mention must be made of PENALTY stamps. I have only seen one value, the 2/6 with the overprint BOETE whereas I have the full range to £1 with the overprint PENALTY. An unsevered pair of 6d. stamps has been seen carrying one overprint of each language.

(To be continued).

WANTED

Collections and the like of Union of South Africa, in fact anything excepting the common commemoratives.

G. E. SHERWOOD

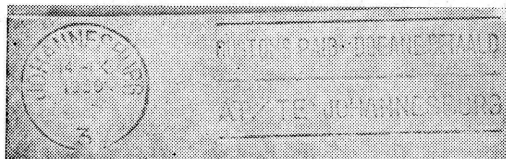
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POSTMARK CORNER

Customs Imprint with Moveable Date.

Mr. S. L. Crozet reports the mark illustrated, as seen for the first time during September, 1959. Unlike previous examples of customs postmarks which have been described in this journal, this type differs in two important points. Firstly it was applied mechanically in Johannesburg, whereas the prototypes were used at Cape Town. Secondly, the circular date stamp forming part of the imprint has been provided with movable dates.



The following are the dimensions of this postmark: Diameter of c.d.s. 22 mm. Overall length 82 mm. Height 20 mm. Height of letters 3.5 mm. Length of horizontal lettering 48 mm.

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SOCIETY NEWS

AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

23 September. Besoek van die Afrikaanse Philatelistiese Vereniging van Johannesburg.

Mr. Bruwer se versameling van Ou- en Nuwe Testamentiese gegewens op seëls het natuurlik algemene bewondering opgewek. Hierdie pragtige versameling is baie bekend.

Mr. Burnard se versameling van Unie lugposseëls en lugposstukke het weer laat besef hoe 'n uitgebreide onderneming dit eintlik is en hoe moeilik dit dikwels is om die klassieke stukke in hande te kry.

Mr. Lambert het sy versameling lugpos van die Benelux-lande uitgestal. Veral die deel van Suriname en Curacao het 'n hele aantal kosbare briewe en seëls bevat.

Deur hierdie mooi versameling was die aand 'n groot sukses. 'n Korte bespreking het nog plaasgevind oor die gebruik van 'n tikmasjien by die byskrif van 'n versameling.

Ons ver wag volgende maand die Phil. Soc. of Pretoria, wat ons sal besoek.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September 16. Again the attendance was good. The Vice-President, Mr. N. Parkin, taking the chair in the absence of Dr. J. J. van Niekerk who was ill.

A comprehensive collection of the Belgian Congo was shown by Mr. I. S. Burniston and Mr. Hymie Schwab tabled a general collection of New Zealand.

The monthly junior meetings held every first Saturday morning are becoming increasingly popular with the juveniles. The convenor, Mr. C. Sperber, is doing excellent work in this connection and with the assistance of senior members, the young collectors are being steered into the correct channels of philately. —S.L.C.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

18th August. The display of the evening was provided by Mr. A. J. Fisher, consisting of a cross-section of Far Eastern countries, of which modern Japan predominated. Mr. Baer proposed the vote of thanks, and the meeting closed with a small auction. Mr. G. N. Plint, after an absence of some years, was welcomed back.

1st September. At the request of our President members stood in memory of the late Mr. Don Kirchner who passed away at East London recently and who, during his stay in Port Elizabeth was a most enthusiastic member of the Society and well remembered by many.

The evening passed off most pleasantly in a happy social atmosphere to which fact our lady exhibitors—whose yearly turn had once again come around—very largely contributed. We had three very nice exhibits, one from Mrs. Douglas—Canada; one from Miss Schroeder—Air Mail Stamps; and the third from Mrs. Smukler—Charity Sets.

Mr. G. Bülbring thanked the ladies for their fine displays and expressed the opinion that in future they could give individual showings instead of team efforts in view of their very marked advances. A good auction concluded the proceedings.

15th September. After general business Mr. Keefe displayed his collection of Unions and members were treated to a delightful show indeed. The collection ran up to the 1952 period, and many interesting items were on view. These included three pairs of 6d. "Phantom Ladder," a brilliant mint corner block of the Van Riebeeck 1/- "Missing Shadow," some unusual Small War 1½d.'s wherein certain details were completely missing and one pair wherein the lower portion of the stamps was hardly visible, the 2d. "Moon" variety, etc., etc.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

On **September 8th** we had as our exhibitor Mr. W. Newlands, who tabled two of his many collections. He first gave a very informative talk on the Orange River Colony Postal Stationery collection, and then tabled the collection which included mint, used and specimens, with many varieties such as Army Postmarks on cover, Cape of Good Hope stationery overprinted for the Orange River Colony, with different varieties, and Interprovincials used in the different Provinces. Mr. Newlands was kept busy explaining particular points of interest to various members who were fascinated by this field of philately.

He then showed a collection of Ireland which had not been shewn to the Society before; this included commemoratives, specimens, air stamps, 1922 essays and revenue stamps. We were most grateful to Mr. Newlands for this fine evening's entertainment, probably his last display before going overseas. —D.J.C.R.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

On **8th September** we saw two displays, Mr. F. C. Ferguson showing thematics, "Scouts and Guides," and Mr. W. C. Mann displaying that part of his huge Italian collection which deals with the air mails. Both displays were beautifully written up and full of fine specimens and interesting items of postal history. We learned quite a lot from the papers accompanying them—for example that the constellation on the "Balbo" mass-flight stamps cannot be the Southern Cross, as the catalogue tells us, since there are only five, not six, stars shown. Or, from Mr. Ferguson, that Baden

Powell's ingenuity extended far further than to harnessing youthful alertness, courage, and spirit of adventure to the war effort of the besieged and to the scout movement afterwards, but also to faking troop movements, tremendous explosions, and even barbed-wire defences.

On 28th September delegates from the Germiston Philatelic Society came for their annual visit and the display of three fine and varied collections. Mr. N. E. Parkin showed "Shakespeare quotations," and they were so apt and witty that they provoked an even more spirited vote of thanks than we are used to.

Mr. H. T. van den Ham showed "Netherlands" and its more modern issues, a display for which Professor Watt thanked him sincerely.

Mr. S. J. Hagger regaled us with "Union Officials," a beautiful lot of material for that section of the Handbook which he is at present engaged on re-writing, and Mr. Lydall was quite justified in admitting for everyone that only Mr. Hagger would know whether he had made mistakes in classifying this extremely tricky lot, and that, for the present, the others could only gape admiringly at the array. —W.H.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

August meeting. Only a handful of members turned up. There was an apology from the chairman as he was out of town and Dr. Wulsohn took the chair. He then read from magazines various articles on "Famous Jewish Personalities on Stamps." There was only sufficient time for about six personalities, viz.: (1) Robert van Lieben (Austrian stamp 1936) who invented the radio amplifier; (2) Karl Marx—author of the Communist Manifesto and Das Kapital (his portrait has appeared on 40 stamps); (3) Siegfried Marcus who invented the first petrol driven vehicle: in 1950 the Austrian post office used a special commemorative postmark and cachet honouring him; (4) Two French stamps depicting Simone Michel-Lévy and Jacques Bingen — two heroes of the French Resistance Movement; (5) Karl Goldmark on a Hungarian stamp, was a famous composer, violinist and pianist; (6) Heinrich Hertz who was a great physicist appears on stamps of West and East Germany.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the display by Mr. C. Hirschmann of part of his "Doar Ivri" collection. If that was "part" then one wonders what the whole looks like. What a feast it was and what rare items—enough to make anyone's mouth water.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September 7. Two fine exhibits were displayed, the first being that of Mr. A. Singles "Netherlands," and the second that of Mr. G. J. J. Ferreira "Postal Stationery." It is interesting to note that a number of

new members were present and that the Society is growing. Also it is noteworthy that members are now exhibiting and that full progress is being made. —M.F.S.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September 1. This was a well attended Annual General Meeting. The Society will hold a display in the Jagger Library, U.C.T. during the next year. The new committee was elected as follows: President, Prof. A. W. Sloan; Chairman, Mr. J. Brown; Secretary, Mr. R. F. Newdigate; Treasurer, Mr. T. Wood; Librarian, Dr. M. C. B. Hotz; Custodian of Davie Collection, Dr. M. C. B. Hotz. This was followed by an excellent display of the stamps of Holland by Mr. van Lochem, being only a small portion of his collection of that country.

September 17. Only a small number of members attended and Capt. M. F. Stern showed stamps collected from the G.P.O.'s during his recent trip through 12 countries, recent issues of Ethiopia, S.A.A. trans-polar flights, recent aerogrammes, air covers of 1959, and recent F.D.C.'s. This mixed bag proved interesting to those who were present. —M.F.S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

September 10. Mr. D. Roth came to light with an interesting talk on the Cape Triangulars, giving some new information and thereafter illustrating this with a representative collection, which included Woodblocks. After this for full measure he showed through slides in colour his recent trip to Europe and INTERPOSTA.

September 24. The evening was a double event. Mr. John Wannerton who is one of the younger members, showed a good straight collection of Newfoundland and was able to give a talk which was enjoyed by the members. He was followed by Capt. M. F. Stern, who showed "Dutch and K.L.M. flights in Africa," "Greek Airmail covers 1926 to 1931" and "Rare Airmail Covers from various parts of the World," which included many "firsts" of different countries. He also gave new information regarding K.L.M. flights, especially the little known Mission flight to Blantyre, and in the Greek section, was able to explain the development of their services. —M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

September 14. This was in the nature of a "get together" and the only exhibit was a few recent items shown by Capt. M. F. Stern.

September 28. Mr. R. C. Steinbauer gave a most interesting talk (the first half) on "Visiting Near and Middle East after half a century." He covered the Balkan States and Turkey, and in addition to pointing out

postal history and showing a representative collection with maps to illustrate his points, he touched on the countries, their political history and other interesting matters. Members are now looking forward to the second half of his subject. —M.F.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

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Orders may be placed with the Society's Secretary, P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August Meeting. The President, after welcoming friends and visitors referred to the great loss the Society had sustained in the passing of the dear old friend to all members, Mr. Charles Harold Thornton, at the ripe old age of 86 years.

Mr. Hellman paid tribute to the late Mr. Thornton for his loyal support of the Society down the years and for the open house he and Mrs. Thornton had extended to all collectors.

Ruby Alabaster Memorial Competition: This was the annual competition night for Juniors, and there was a record attendance, 25 junior competitors exhibiting their stamps and four awards were made. In future there will also be a Thematics Section of the two classes.

Mr. J. Clarkson spoke on "What to Collect" and then showed a film on stamp manufacturing all of which was of valuable interest to the junior collectors.

It was also Ladies' Night so that the ladies brought along delicious cakes and a lively auction concluded the meeting.

September Meeting. This was the annual competition for the Thematics Cup which was won again by our President, Mr. Leo Hellman, who read an informative and interesting paper on Thematic collecting.

Four collections were entered — just double the number of last year! Mr. Hellman appealed for more displays in future.

Executive decisions reported were:—

- (a) To send a donation of 20 guineas to Unipex.
- (b) That three societies had ordered five films, and that the possibility of making our own films should be considered.
- (c) That in view of the improvement which had taken place in the Exchange Club,

Societies throughout the Union should be circularised, with a view to obtaining more members as either sellers, buyers or both.

- (d) That the **Weple Cup** competition should take the form of a display of any 10 pages of their collection, and that the winner should be decided by the popular vote of all members at the meeting.

Mr. George Feros displayed all the special Union items which were illustrated in the August and September issues of the "S.A. Philatelist." —J.P.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Attendance was smaller than usual, but the interest was well maintained. A pleasing feature of the Auction, which as usual, preceded the meeting, was the brisk and generous bidding for the lots offered on behalf of Addington Hospital, for the purchase of materials for Occupational Therapy at the Children's Hospital.

The first exhibit of the evening was EGYPT, by Mr. R. A. Gilzean. The high standard which one has come to expect from Mr. Gilzean was well maintained and the arrangement and write-up were a delight.

While the displays were being changed Mr. Fred King read some extracts from current and earlier magazines, the last of which, on the history of Postmarks, made an excellent introduction to the second exhibit of the evening.

Owing to an earlier-than-expected departure for overseas, Mr. B. Holmes was unable to display his programmed "Collection for Criticism." Mr. C. Selwyn Smith deputised with a section of his collection of the Postmarks of Great Britain. This section illustrated the so-called Maltese Cross mark and was introduced by a short paper dealing with the design, history and development of the postmark, and explaining how certain characteristics of shape and colour became associated with individual towns. As the collection was, of necessity a small one, a reconstructed sheet of the 1841 two penny blue, plate 3, was shown in addition. A lively interest was shown in the display and the exhibitor was kept busy with questions.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Tensy onvoorsiene gebeure dit anders wil, vind ons feesbyeenkoms plaas op Vrydag 6 November en wel om 8 uur die aand in die Grand National Hotel, de Villiersstraat, een blok links van die stasiegebou.

U kan u vir 'n aand propvol opwinding en gesellige samesyn klaarmaak. Sorg dus dat u al u versamelaarvriende saambring.

Ons wil nie met die hele mandjie patats voor die dag kom nie maar ons sal darem laat deurskemer wat alles in die mou gevoer word. Daar sal byvoorbeeld vir 'n kleurfilm oor seelproduksie gesorg word,

sowel as 'n amptelike uitstalling deur die Departement van Pos- en Telegraafwese.

'n Interessante vasvrawedstryd waaraan die nege verenigings van die Rand en Pretoria sal deelneem, word gereël, en ons sien uit na die gespartel van die slimmes terwyl hulle hulle van die vasvra probeer loswikkell.

'n Ander hoogtepunt sal deur mev. Anna Schubart verskaf word met haar oorhandiging van die J. W. Schubart-gedenktouekening aan die vereniging en die eerste ontvanger van hierdie pragtige en buitengewone medalje.

Maar ons loop die saak vooruit waar ons reeds vroeër al melding van ons belangrike gasspreker, die Posmeester-generaal, mnr. A. J. Botes, moes gemaak het. Mnr. Botes het goedgunstiglik ingestem om ons daardie aand met sy aanwesigheid te bevoorreg. Ons hoop net dat sy amptelike sake hom nie na elders sal neem nie en dat sy gade hom sal kan vergesel. Ons hoop ook om ander hooggeplaaste posbeamptes aanwesig te hê.

In breë trekke is dit die program. Kom seker. Kom vroeg.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A **September** novel competition attracted a good attendance and was an outstanding success. Incidentally this meeting was also the 13th Anniversary of the Society's inauguration and we wish to thank Mrs. D. Brown for the delicious and attractive birthday cake which she baked for the Society.

There were four entries for the competition shown as follows: Firstly, Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn's collection of early Great Britain from 1837. This included Penny Blacks; Twopenny Blues without white lines; Penny Reds imperforate and Twopenny Blues with white lines.

This was followed by an unusual and interesting collection of Bogus Stamps as sold to novice collectors. Mr. John Kriste tried to show something different with his bogus collection and members present had to consult catalogues to ascertain whether certain stamps shown were genuine or not.

The third collection was tabled by Mr. W. Kriste and portrayed the Definitive Pictorial Issue of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika; Georgian Definitives; U.P.U.; Silver Wedding; S.A. stamps overprinted and surcharged, and stamp booklets.

The last collection was presented by Mr. D. Brown and consisted of a good cross-section of air mails of the whole world; First Flight covers and air mail stickers.

Winners in the competition were: 1st, Mr. W. Kriste; and 2nd, Mr. D. Slater-Kinghorn.
—A.L.G.

ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY

We regret very much having to report the death of Mr. H. W. Pearson on 3rd October. He was a very active participant in the founding of the Society in England and had been editor of "The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist," its official publication, ever since its start in March, 1958.

It is amazing the amount of new material the Society has brought to light regarding the philately of the period, and published in their magazine.

Mr. Pearson was not merely a very efficient editor, but did himself most of the donkey work connected with publication such as typing the stencils, despatching copies to members of the Society, and dealing with much correspondence. He was also a keen Scoutmaster, and it was really through scouting that he became interested, firstly, in the stamps of Mafeking, graduating into the whole of Anglo-Boer war philately.

He was a comparatively young man, and it looks as if the super-abundant energy he put into everything he had to do with, killed him. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to his mother and brother, the only relatives we know of.

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